nologies will have to be commercialised and made cost-effective.

Infrastructural support forms an essential prerequisite for ocean development. The variegated infrastructure already available in the country will have to be appropriately augmented, and more particularly in basic supporting facilities like safety and rescue at sea, navigational chains, communications net-works, development of appropriate maps and charts, etc. Infrastructural support for providing a complete and relaible information system through a net-work of data centres on marine resources, processing and marketing systems, advanced technologies and financial assistance would also be necessary. This requires a broadening and strengthening of available infrastructural facilities. Provisions of adequate ports and harbours, ship-building and ship-repair facilities will be needed in addition to adequate skilled manpower in various sectors of development.

Surveillance and conservation of the marine environment and its resources call for an integrated legal framework and its concomitant enforcement. Several laws have already been promulgated regarding the maritime zone, fisheries, etc. The Coast Guard Organisation looks after the enforcement aspects of several of these legislative measures. The co-ordinating mechanisms of the overall structure of legislation will have to be suitably strengthened under the aegis of the Department of Ocean Development.

In the light of this, we must have a data base to co-ordinate efforts made by different agencies. This is all the more necessary because of the rapid growth of information in ocean science and technology. A centralised data system will be set up by the Department of Ocean Development with a proper mechanism for collection, collation and dissemination of information acquired both indegenously and from foreign sources.

The creation of a self-reliant technological base puts a heavy demand on fully trained personnel. The training of skilled manpower is to be adequately planned. Young scientists, technologists and engineers will be encouraged to participate in the programme of ocean development and steps will be taken to induce Indian scientists from within the country and abroad to participate in it.

Existing agencies will have to be appropriately strengthened to meet the demands of this growing challenge. The Department of Ocean Development will function in conjunction with other concerned agencies as a focal point to promote institutional capability in areas where significant work is lacking. The complex programme that ocean development entails will require well-designed management and institutional extension of the Department of Ocean Development with sufficient powers vis-a-vis other agencies to help proper and speedy ocean development, which enables India to be in the forefront of the international effort. This would also mean close co-operation with both developing and developed countries in a spirit of understanding of the concept that the oceans are a common heritage of humankind.

Measures to check Corruption

255. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to check corruption in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): The Government is fully alive to the need to eradicate corruption at all levels and is committed to ensure a clean administration. The drive against corruption in public services is a continuing process. Policies, in this regard, have been formulated and are being continously modified from time to time in order to make them more effective and

responsive to the changing environment. Primarily, it is the Secretary and the Head of the Department who is responsible for checking corruption in his Ministry/Department. The Central Vigilance Commission, the Central Bureau of Investigation and internal vigilance set-ups in the Ministries/Departments are the agencies, apart from the Administrative Vigilance Division in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, which are involved in this task.

The Administrative Vigilance Division

of the Department of Personnel & Training coordinates the efforts of the Ministries/Departments in the field of vigilance and anti-corruption measures, besides, rendering necessary guidance and assistance, wherever, needed. The Annual Action Plan prepared by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, which is implemented by the Ministries/ Departments envisages a three-pronged strategy for containment of corruption in public life through prevention, surveillance and detection and punitive deterrent action. It was initially launched in 1985-86 and is being continued on an annual basis.

With a view to eradicting corruption from public life, the Prevention of Corruption Act was originally enacted in 1947. This Act has further been strengthened by the re-enactment of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, which is more comprehensive. The new Act of 1988 provides for:—

1. Widening the scope of definition of the term "Public Servant" including therein the office bearers of registered Cooperative Societies engaged in Agriculture, Industry, Trade or Banking etc.
2. Incorporation of provisions for setting up Sepcial Courts try offences under this Act.
3. Incorporation of offences under Section 161 to 165-A of the IPC and,
4. Incorporation of definition of the term "Known sources of income" (to mean only lawful sources of income).

The preventive measures duly supported by various conduct Rules governing the service conditions of public servants act as deterrent against corruption.

4. In order to look into the allegations of corruption against high public functionaries a Lok Pal Bill has been introduced in the Parliament on the 13th September, 1996. The Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs on this Bill has been received. After consideration of this Report and decisions in respect of the same, Government propose to have this Bill taken up for consideration and passing during the current Session.

Number of Ministries

256. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during sixties and early seventies there were limited number of Ministries, for example, for Agricultural sector there was one Ministry of Food and Agriculture and for Industrial Sector one Ministry of Industry and Commerce;

(b) if so, what is the justification for the present large number of Ministries, such as, for agriculture sector five to six Ministries of Food, Agriculture, Civil Supplies, Water Resources, Rural Areas and Employment and similarly for the Industry and other sectors; and

(c) what administrative economics have been planned and achieved during the last five years of liberalised/deregulated regime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) Yes, Sir.